

SEP. 12. 2008 2:13PM

HARRINGTON & SMITH

**RECEIVED**  
**CENTRAL FAX CENTER** NO. 757 P. 3

SEP 12 2008

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electric connector element comprising a housing for receiving first and second contacts, a first locking device adapted to ~~directly~~ lock only the first contacts with the housing, which can move between a release position and a locking position for said first contacts, a second locking device adapted to lock only the second contacts with the housing, which can move between a release position and a locking position for said second contacts, characterized in that the electric connector element comprises means for preventing a maneuvering of the second locking device when the first locking device is not in the locking position for first contacts.
2. (Previously presented) The electrical connector element according to claim 1, further characterized in that the first locking device comprises a rotary flap provided with digits for holding the first contacts, crosswise to a direction of insertion of the first contacts in the housing, and the second locking device comprising a front grid provided with elements for holding the second contacts, directed towards the rear.
3. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 1, further characterized in that the prevention means comprise at least one stop element, joined to the housing, positioned in a path of an arm which is part of

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

the second locking device and which opposes the maneuvering of the second locking device from the release position towards the locking position for the second contacts.

4. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 3, further characterized in that the arm is flexible and equipped with a spur provided with a first profile for interlocking with a complementary profile of the stop element and a second profile forming, after the arm is bent, a profile for release by sliding against the stop element.

5. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 3, further characterized in that first locking device comprises a shoulder which is positioned in front of at least a part of the stop element and permits maneuvering the second locking device towards its locking position by bending the arm, when the first locking device is in the locking position for first contacts.

6. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 3, further characterized in that the arm and the stop element comprise rear inclined surfaces such that once a grid of the second locking device is in its set-back position for locking the second contacts, the arm and the stop element hold the grid in the set-back position by cooperation of the rear inclined surface of the arm with the rear inclined surface of the stop element.

7. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 1, further characterized in that the second locking device, in the locking position, comprises an element

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

for preventing the maneuvering of the first locking device from its locking position toward its release position for the first contacts.

8. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 7, further characterized in that said element for preventing maneuvering is made up of a piece borne by the second locking device and received in a recess that is part of the first locking device.

9. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 8, further characterized in that the recess makes up a part of the elastic latching element.

10. (Currently amended) An electric connector element comprising:

a housing which is sized and shaped to receive first contacts and different second contacts, wherein the second contacts have a different shape than the first contacts;

a first locking device ~~for~~ configured to directly lock the first contacts with the housing, wherein the first locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the first contacts; and

a second locking device ~~for~~ configured to directly lock the second contacts with the housing, wherein the second locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the second contacts,

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

wherein the electric connector element comprises a system for preventing the second locking device from moving from the release position to the locking position for the second contacts when the first locking device is not in the locking position for first contacts.

11. (Previously presented) The electrical connector element according to claim 10, further characterized in that the first locking device comprises a rotary flap provided with digits for holding the first contacts, crosswise to a direction of insertion of the first contacts in the housing, and the second locking device comprising a front grid provided with elements for holding the second contacts, directed towards the rear.

12. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 10, further characterized in that the system for preventing comprises at least one stop element, joined to the housing, positioned in a path of an arm which is part of the second locking device and which opposes the maneuvering of the second locking device from the release position towards the locking position for the second contacts.

13. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 12, further characterized in that the arm is flexible and equipped with a spur provided with a first profile for interlocking with a complementary profile of the stop element and a second profile forming, after the arm is bent, a profile for release by sliding against the stop element.

14. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 12, further characterized in that first

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

locking device comprises a shoulder which is positioned in front of at least a part of the stop element and permits maneuvering the second locking device towards its locking position by bending the arm, when the first locking device is in the locking position for first contacts.

15. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 12, further characterized in that the arm and the stop element comprise rear inclined surfaces such that once a grid of the second locking device is in a set-back position for locking the second contacts, the arm and the stop element hold the grid in the set-back position by cooperation of the rear inclined surface of the arm with the rear inclined surface of the stop element.

16. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 10, further characterized in that the second locking device, in the locking position, comprises an element for preventing the maneuvering of the first locking device from its locking position toward its release position for the first contacts, wherein the element for preventing maneuvering is made up of a piece borne by the second locking device and received in a recess that is part of the first locking device.

17. (Previously presented) The electric connector element according to claim 16, further characterized in that the recess makes up a part of the elastic latching element.

18. (Previously presented) An electric connector element comprising:

Appl No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

a housing which is sized and shaped to receive first contacts and different second contacts;

a first locking device for the first contacts, wherein the first locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the first contacts; and

a second locking device for the second contacts, wherein the second locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the second contacts,

wherein the electric connector element comprises a system for preventing the second locking device from moving from the release position to the locking position for the second contacts unless the first locking device is in the locking position for first contacts, and

wherein the preventing system comprises at least one stop element, joined to the housing, positioned in a path of an arm which is part of the second locking device and which opposes the maneuvering of the second locking device from the release position towards the locking position for the second contacts.

19. (Currently amended) An electric connector element comprising:

a housing which is sized and shaped to receive first contacts and differently shaped second contacts;

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

a first locking device ~~for~~ configured to lock the first contacts with the housing, wherein the first locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the first contacts; and

a second locking device ~~for~~ configured to lock the second contacts with the housing, wherein the second locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the second contacts,

wherein the electric connector element comprises a system for preventing the second locking device from moving from the release position to the locking position for the second contacts when the first locking device is not in the locking position for first contacts, wherein the system for preventing the second locking device from moving comprises a portion spaced from the first locking device when the first locking device is in the release position, wherein the portion is configured to contact the second locking device to prevent the second locking device from moving from the release position to the locking position, and

wherein the second locking device, when in the locking position, comprises a portion for preventing movement of the first locking device from its locking position toward its release position for the first contacts, wherein the portion is received in a recess of the first locking device.

Appl. No.: 10/583,287  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/15/2008

20. (Currently amended) An electric connector element comprising:

a housing which is sized and shaped to receive first contacts and second contacts, wherein the housing comprises resiliently deflectable locking tabs adapted to lock the second contacts to the housing;

a first locking device ~~for~~ configured to lock the first contacts with the housing, wherein the first locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the first contacts; and

a second locking device ~~for~~ configured to lock the locking tabs with the housing, wherein the second locking device is connected to the housing to move between a release position and a locking position for the second contacts, and wherein in the locking position the second locking device prevents the locking tabs from disengaging with the second contacts,

wherein the electric connector element comprises a system for preventing the second locking device from moving from the release position to the locking position for the second contacts when the first locking device is not in the locking position for first contacts, wherein the system for preventing the second locking device from moving comprises a portion spaced from the first locking device when the first locking device is in the release position.